



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Assembly Bill 150

Assembly Amendments 1 and 2

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Current Law

Current law provides a forfeiture of not more than \$200 for a person who operates a motor vehicle with a registration plate attached in a non-rigid or non-horizontal manner or in an inconspicuous place so as to make it difficult to see and read the plate. In addition, current law allows a forfeiture of not more than \$200 for a person who operates a motor vehicle with a registration plate in an illegible condition due to the accumulation of dirt or other foreign matter.

Assembly Bill 150

Assembly Bill 150 provides a penalty for a person who operates a vehicle with any tinted cover or with any bracket or clear cover that interferes with the normal reading of any number, letter, word, or symbol on a registration plate, insert tag, decal, or other evidence of registration. The bill provides a forfeiture of \$20 for the first offense and not more than \$200 for the second or subsequent conviction within one year for this new provision and for provisions in current law related to display of motor vehicle registration plates. The assessments that are generally applicable to forfeitures would not apply to a first offense for a violation of the registration plate requirements.

In addition, the bill provides that no motor vehicle dealer or motor vehicle salesperson may offer for sale any motor vehicle unless the vehicle is equipped with a registration plate bracket for each plate the vehicle is required to display. The bracket may not interfere with the normal reading of any number, letter, word, or symbol on a registration plate, insert tag, decal or other evidence of registration. A dealer or salesperson who violates this prohibition may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$200 for each violation.

Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill:

1. The provision of the bill that requires a motor vehicle dealer or salesperson to sell motor vehicles equipped with registration plate brackets is amended to include “other means of displaying each plate.”
2. The “look-back” period for determining whether an offense is a second offense is increased from one year to five years.
3. A delayed effective date is provided. Under the amendment, the bill will take effect on the first day of the third month beginning after publication.

Assembly Amendment 2

Assembly Amendment 2 provides an exemption from the requirement in the bill that a person not operate a vehicle with any tinted cover or any bracket or clear cover that interferes with normal reading of the registration plate. An exemption is provided for a vehicle registered in another jurisdiction if the vehicle is in the course of passing through Wisconsin for a period of not more than 30 days.

Legislative History

On September 20, 2001, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1, adoption of Assembly Amendment 2, and passage of the bill as amended, all on votes of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.